Distribution of Telephone Directory

1470. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jharkhand Telephone Directory has not been distributed in Bokaro since 2003;

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay and by when these are expected to be distributed to the subscribers at the earliest;

(c) when was the Jharkhand Telephone Directory last distributed in Bokaro; and

(d) whether it has been examined to include the telephone number of other telecom service providers in this directory and whether TRAI would make it mandatory for these service providers to include their number as the public is put to immense difficulties with the listings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For the directory printing tender floated in December, 2003, no bids were received. Another tender has been floated in August, 2004 and new telephone directory is expected to be available by June, 2005.

(c) The directory is printed SSA-wise and not circle-wise. However, the last telephone directory of Dhanbad Telecom. District was distributed in Bokaro in the year 2001.

(d) Yes, Sir. The case has been examined and it has not been found feasible to include the telephone number of other telecom service providers in this directory. So far TRAI has not made any recommendation in this regard.

Telephone connection to Gram Sabha

1471. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of such Gram Sabhas in the country where telephones are functioning and the number of such Gram Sabhas which have applied for the telephones, State-wise;

(b) whether any target has been fixed by the Department to connect all Gram Panchayat of the country with telephone; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) 2,28,279 Gram Sabhas in the country are having Village Public Telephone (VPT). VPTs are being provided in inhabited villages including Gram Panchayats as a policy of the Government and with the support from Universal Service Obligation (USO) fund. The details of VPTs provided in Panchayat villages is given in the statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) In accordance with the terms and conditions of USO Fund Tender and Agreement signed between the office of Administrator USO fund and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) the uncovered Gram Panchayats included therein are planned to be provided with telephone facilities progressively by November, 2007

Statement

Total number of Panchayat villages covered

Sl. No.	Circle	Panchayat Villages provided with telecom facility
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	67
2.	Andhra Pradesh	18264
3.	Assam	2319
4.	Bihar	8471
5.	Chhattisgarh	7819
6.	Gujarat	12370
7.	Haryana	5922
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3019
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	928
10.	Jharkhand	3322
11.	Karnataka	5692
12.	Kerala	1000
13.	Madhya Pradesh	18820
14.	Maharashtra	22917
15.	North East-I	1440
16.	North East-II	3492
17.	Orissa	5121

Sl. No.	Circle	Panchayat Villages provided with telecom facility
18.	Punjab	11975
19.	Rajasthan	8673
20.	Tamil Nadu	13126
21.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	51262
22.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	12858
23.	Uttaranchal	5929
24.	West Bengal	3473
	Total	228279

Competition between BSNL and private mobile operators

1472. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more then 50 lakh BSNL and MTNL landline phones have been surrendered and disconnected by the people in India during 2002-03 in view of the growing demand for mobile phones;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a tough competition between BSNL and private mobile operators in the mobile phone sector; and

(c) if so, what strategy Government are working out to increase the volume of mobile phone subscribers in BSNL to offset the losses incurred by them by the surrender of landlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. The number of surrendered/disconnected landline phones of BSNL and MTNL during 2002-03 are as follows:

Year	BSNL (Surrenders/Disconnections)	MTNL (Surrenders/Disconnections)
2002-03	17,93,536	4,67,200

(b) Despite competition from private operators, there is a huge demand for BSNL mobile phones, generally all over the country. BSNL has a market share of 23% with more than 8.1 million cellular connections as on 30-11-2004.

(c) BSNL is further augmenting its cellular network by 12 million lines